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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,220	11/07/2001	Jason K. Trotter	ITWO:0016	5660
7590	08/17/2004		EXAMINER	
Tait R. Swanson Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren P.O. Box 692289 Houston, TX 77269-2289			COTTINGHAM, JOHN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/066,220	TROTTER ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
John R. Cottingham	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2003.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-6,8,13-15 and 17-52 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-3,7,9-12 and 16 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_ .  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ .

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's election of claims 1-52 and Figure 8 in the reply filed on 7/30/03 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 4-6, 8, 13-15, 17-52 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species in the figures other than figure 8, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/30/03. Upon further review independent claim is not generic and is drawn to Figure 12.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 7, 9-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muaghan et al. U.S. Patent 6,059,480. Muaghan et al. shows all of the claimed subject matter of a mechanical linkage in Figures 1-11.

Regarding claim 1, a mechanical linkage, comprising an elongated extruded member 22 comprising a structural cross-section and a linkage end, wherein the structural cross-section is configured to support a linkage end 24 under a mechanical load.

Regarding claim 2, wherein the linkage end comprises an integral joint member 34 formed by the structural cross-section.

Regarding claim 3, wherein the linkage end comprises an integral socket 32 formed by the structural cross-section.

Regarding claim 7, wherein the integral socket 32 has a square geometry.

Regarding claim 9, a desired device 24 having a modular connector 34 disposed in the integral socket.

Regarding claim 10, the desired device is a joint member.

Regarding claim 11, the joint member comprises a molded ball 36.

Regarding claim 16, the elongated extruded member is extruded lengthwise. The extruded limitation is a product by process limitation and does not give patentable weight to the claim as long as the prior art shows the product.

### ***Conclusion***

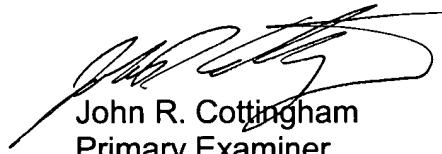
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shido U.S. Patent 6,718,593 and Mosing et al. U.S. Patent 6,520,709 show similar inventions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (703) 306-3439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John R. Cottingham  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679

jrc